
**Early Learning & Children's
Services Committee**

HB 3209

Brief Description: Requiring drug testing for certain recipients of temporary assistance for needy families.

Sponsors: Representatives Hinkle, Roach, Haler, Condotta, Warnick and Kretz.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires periodic urinalysis drug testing being included in individual responsibility plans for certain recipients of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

Hearing Date: 2/5/08

Staff: Sydney Forrester (786-7120).

Background:

WorkFirst is Washington's program of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Under WorkFirst, recipients of public assistance are assessed prior to referral to job search activities. Information obtained through the assessment is used to develop an individual responsibility plan (IRP) for each recipient. An IRP includes an employment goal, a plan for obtaining employment as quickly as possible, and a description of services available to remove barriers to employment and to enable the recipient to obtain and keep employment.

Summary of Bill:

When the assessment of a TANF recipient indicates the likelihood that the recipient's need for public assistance is linked to chemical dependence or substance abuse, the recipient's IRP must include a process for periodic urinalysis drug testing. The testing can be accomplished via a treatment program, routine employer screening, or other lawful means.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 24, 2008.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.